

Delaware students to compete in state Envirothon Thursday, April 27 in Newark

DOVER – Students from around the state will meet Thursday, April 27 at the University of Delaware's Webb Farm in Newark to compete in the 22nd annual Delaware Envirothon – sponsored by the Delaware Association of Conservation Districts (DACD). This year, 120 students representing nine high schools and one 4-H Club will compete for more than \$5,000 in college scholarships and cash awards.

"We are excited to host the event since the farm is a perfect complement for the 2017 special environmental topic, Agricultural Soil and Water Conservation Stewardship," said Webb Farm Manager Larry Armstrong.

The Envirothon is a team-based outdoor academic competition which challenges high school students' knowledge and practical application of aquatic ecology, forestry, soils/land use, wildlife, air quality, special environmental topics and public speaking. The teams come from the following high schools: A.I. DuPont High School, Archmere Academy, Delaware Military Academy, Charter School of Wilmington, Middletown High School, MOT Charter School, Peach Blossom 4-H Club, Polytech High School, Smyrna High School and Sussex Tech High School. During the school year, DACD held Saturday workshops to provide in-depth training.

Sponsored by the Delaware Association of Conservation Districts (DACD), the Envirothon offers students monetary awards for higher education and commendable effort. Twenty-three teams, consisting of five students each, will compete for one of the top four spots, which offer students more than \$3,000 in college scholarships and special team awards

combined. In addition, cash awards totaling approximately \$2,200 are given to the top seven teams.

The goal of the Delaware Envirothon is to prepare students to be future leaders in environmentally-related careers, and provide knowledge about our environment. The competition provides experience in real world situations, which fosters sound decision making, problem solving and critical thinking skills. Teams will be tested at outdoor eco-stations located throughout designated areas of the event site.

The DACD is a voluntary, non-profit association that coordinates conservation efforts statewide to focus on natural resource issues identified by Delaware's three local districts. For more information on the Delaware Envirothon and the North American Envirothon, please contact state Envirothon chair Rick Mickowski at 302-832-3100 ext. 8979 or 302-602-2664, or visit www.delawareenvirothon.org.

Media contact: Joanna Wilson, DNREC Public Affairs,
302-739-9902

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